

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENT:

[010] The embodiment of the putter illustrated in the drawing comprises a putter head 10 supported on one end of a conventional shaft 20 having a grip ~~21~~ 28 on the opposite end thereof. So long as the distributed mass of the shaft and grip comply with the mass distribution specified herein, these components may be conventional. Accordingly, the putter of Fig.s 2 and 3 is illustrated without the central portion of the shaft 20.

[016] In accordance with this invention, the components (head 10, shaft 20, grip ~~21~~ 28) are arranged and assembled to distribute the mass of the assembled construction equally on opposite sides of a vertical plane which is normal to and intersects the axial length of the preferred striking area 17 of the striking face 11. This mass distribution may be accomplished by various means such as shaping or weighting the toe or heel of the putter head to compensate for the mass of the shaft and grip. In the preferred embodiment, however, the head 10 is of substantially uniform density and symmetrically weighted about its vertical axis. The head 10 does not, of course, need to be a simple blade shape as illustrated but may be otherwise shaped and/or include a striking plate or the like. In the preferred embodiment, however, such shaping, *etc.*, should be arranged to maintain the mass of the putter head substantially equally distributed on opposite sides of the vertical axis of the head 10. To maintain the mass of the complete putter equally distributed on opposite sides of the horizontal midpoint of the striking face, the shaft 20 is attached to the head 10 at point between the horizontal midpoint of the head and the toe end of the putter as illustrated in the drawing. Displacement of the attachment point of the shaft 20 toward the toe end is necessary to compensate for the combined mass of the shaft 20 and grip ~~21~~ 28 because the shaft 20 does not extend vertically from the putter head 10. Instead, the shaft 20 is inclined from vertical toward the heel of the head 10 to allow the golfer to address the ball from a

point removed from the location of the ball. Thus the displacement distance of shaft 20 toward the toe end of the head depends on the mass of the shaft and grip, the length of the shaft and the angle at which the shaft deviates from vertical.

[017] Putter shafts 20 are ordinarily between about thirty-two (32) inches and thirty-eight (38) inches in length. The combined mass of the shaft and grip is usually less than about five (5) ounces. The angle at which the shaft 20 deviates from vertical may vary from about 8° to about 25°. Accordingly, when the mass of the head 10 is uniformly distributed on opposite sides of the vertical axis, the mass of the shaft and grip must be likewise substantially distributed in opposite sides of the vertical axis. Such mass distribution is conveniently achieved by extending the shaft 20 from the top face 13 at a point between the vertical axis of the head 10 and the toe end. Depending on the mass of the shaft 20 and grip ~~21 28~~, the length of the shaft 20 and the angle at which shaft 20 deviates from vertical, the point at which the shaft 20 joins the head 10 may be displaced toward the toe end from less than one-fourth (1/4) inch to as much as two (2) inches or more.

[020] In accordance with the invention ~~marks~~ markers 25, 26 are positioned on top face 13 to extend from the back face and front face, respectively, of the putter head. Markers 25, 26 may be lines, grooves, dots or the like which extend completely or partially across the top face 13 at the horizontal midpoint of the head 10. Markers 25, 26 identify the horizontal midpoint of the striking face and extend in opposite directions from the geometric center of the putter head 10. Markers 25, 26 thus serve to align the ball and the putter head 10 with the desired direction of travel as in conventional putters.